



THE COLONNADE

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WEEKEND WEATHER

Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
69	66	59
52	49	45
10%	40%	30%

www.weather.com

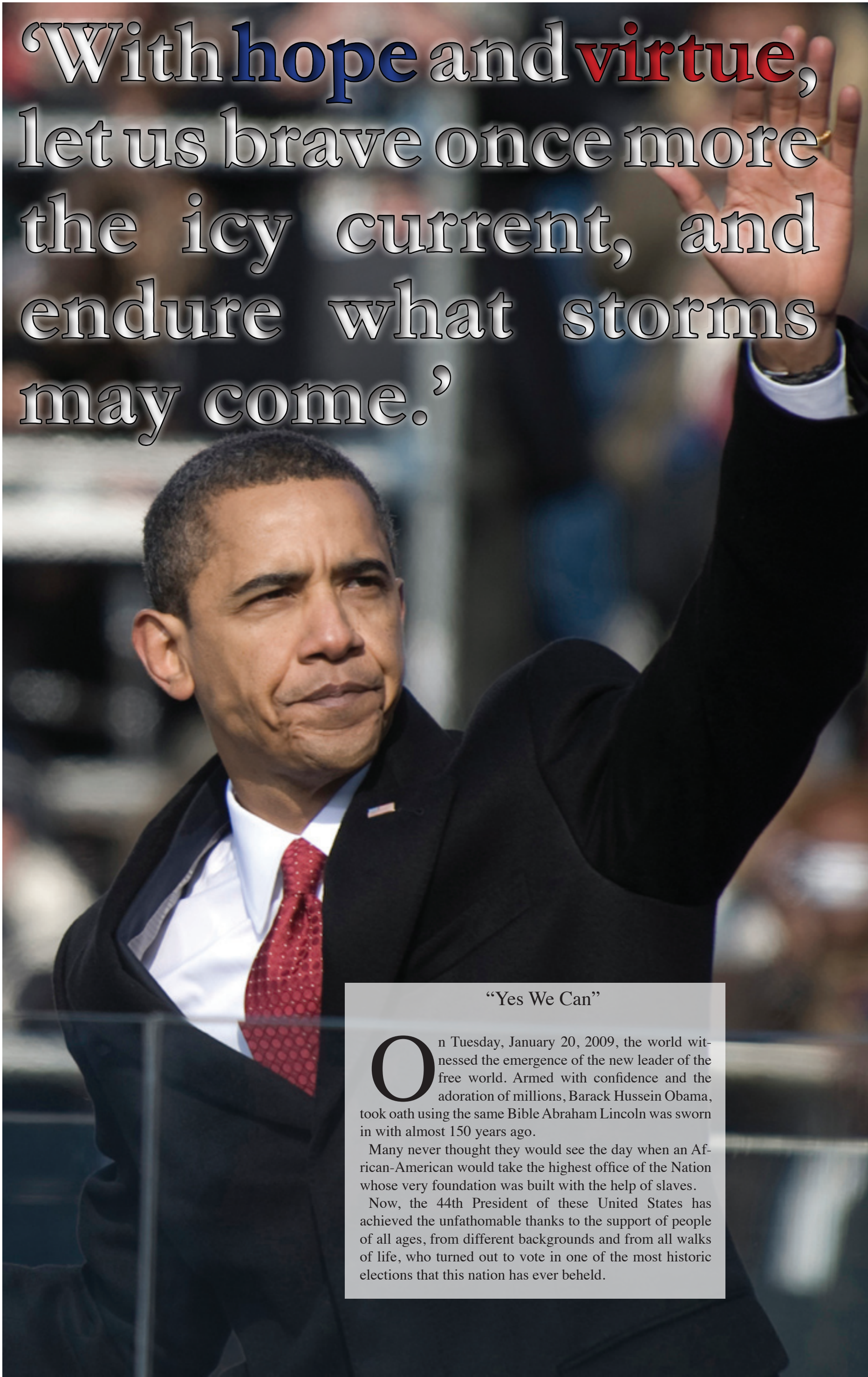
NUMBER CRUNCH

**Over
2 million**

people braved the cold weather to witness history in the making

www.cnn.com

‘With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy current, and endure what storms may come.’



“Yes We Can”

On Tuesday, January 20, 2009, the world witnessed the emergence of the new leader of the free world. Armed with confidence and the adoration of millions, Barack Hussein Obama, took oath using the same Bible Abraham Lincoln was sworn in with almost 150 years ago.

Many never thought they would see the day when an African-American would take the highest office of the Nation whose very foundation was built with the help of slaves.

Now, the 44th President of these United States has achieved the unfathomable thanks to the support of people of all ages, from different backgrounds and from all walks of life, who turned out to vote in one of the most historic elections that this nation has ever beheld.

SPECIAL INAUGURATION COVERAGE



■ CHARMED CAMPUS

Students, staff and faculty share a moving experience as they watch history.

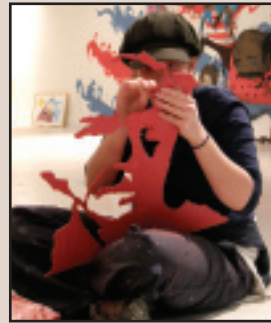
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■ EYEWITNESS

Read our one editor's first hand account as she stood with millions in D.C.

www.GCSUnade.com



■ CAPTURE THE MOMENT

Where were you during the festivities? See our slide-shows as GCSU students in D.C. and Milledgeville share their moments.

www.GCSUnade.com

TOP PHOTO / SPECIAL TO THE COLONNADE
FAR LEFT PHOTO / LISSA SPEER, SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
MIDDLE PHOTO / AMANDA BODDY, SENIOR REPORTER
RIGHT PHOTO / SPECIAL TO THE COLONNADE
GRAPHICS BY CLAIRE KERSEY
LAYOUT AND DESIGN BY ANA MARIA LUGO

Campus bears witness to history



BY STEPHANIE SORENSEN
STAFF REPORTER

The crowd at Books and Brew erupted into a powerful burst of excitement as Obama entered the National Mall while Washington D.C welcomed the new leader of the free world. President Bush looked on approvingly, almost nostalgic while Obama took the seat across from his as an equal. And so begins the legacy- History is your story.

After a grueling campaign trail, Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th president of The United States Tuesday afternoon. People across the nation tuned in to watch the first black man step into history , turning back the pages of civil rights and bringing America into a new dawn of age”.

Arriving by train and echoing great presidents of the past, Barack Obama is held to high expectations by the public and his colleagues. His message of change echoed through the nation on Martin Luther King Day as Obama perused acts of charity to reassure the American public of a feeling of unity.

“Barack Obama has inspired me,” Said freshman business major Reece Rios “he genuinely wants change.”

The room fell silent as Obama approached the podium with each step giving hope to minorities and exemplifying the true meaning of what it is to be an American. He reminds us that neither race, religion, nor blood unties us, but rather our belief in freedom.

“Obama has a huge job ahead of him.” said senior Krista Stanley “This election is not about gender or race, but rather about preserving the melting pot that made America.”

Stumbling a bit on his words, Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States of America shortly after twelve noon. The crowd roared in approval both on television and in the lobby of Books and Brew expressing excitement for the new president.

As Obama moved to make his first address as President of the United States the crowd watched, admiring their new leader. The address was direct and called for action from not only bureaucrats, but the American people. He challenged the systems in place accusing politics of being filled with worn out dogmas. Conviction and determination filled his voice as he exclaimed that “ Our challenges will be met- we have chosen hope over our fear.”

The crowd in Books and Brew had strong reaction to the speech as some became teary eyed listening to the message of hope while others seemed hesitant to buy into the political jargon.

“I remember joking that a black man would become president fifty years from now,” said sophomore psychology major Rachel N. Stevens, “ But now that it has happened, it really makes me believe in America. It gives me hope that Americans can overcome the hardships we are facing now.”

Obama continued his moving oration calling to “remake America” and restore “vital trust to the people”. In a back to the basics approach, Obama described a spirit of service and duty to ourselves, our nation, and the world. Not all students were happy with Obama’s presentation, though many seemed reluctant to divulge their opinion.

“I am hesitant to put my full support behind Barack Obama,” said freshman chemistry major Matt Steinberg “ He’s a great orator, but he has little experience in politics and there are already scandals with the candidates chosen for his cabinet.”

True that each President comes with his flaws, Obama seemed determined to inspire hope and unity to the American people ending his address with “Hope and virtue will survive. We refuse to let this journey end and we will preserve this nation for future generations.”

“ I am delighted to find the spirit of the students to be responsive and respectful.” Said Dr. Kauffman, organizer of the Books

and Brew political gathering “ It is great to see the students come together in a bipartisan manner while still maintaining respect for party loyalties.”

Obama attempted to show the true colors of America through his speech extending a hand to all those who wanted help and ensuring that every American regardless of race or creed would have their rights respected.

“Obama is sewing the country back together,” Said Carrie Anne Tocci “America’s culture is so diverse; it is like patchwork. Obama creates a better sense of belonging to the American people because he represents our country’s identity.”

Grievances still undermine some student’s opinion of Obama as they acknowledge this peaceful transfer of power as problematic to the sensitive economic and social issues America finds herself in.

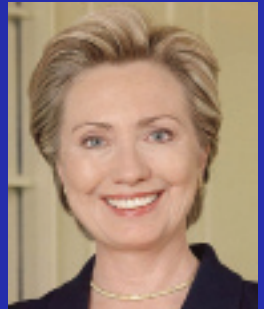
“Obama is encouraging, but he has no plan of action.” Said freshman political science major Caitlin McCourt “I’m rather disappointed in his speech for its naivety. I have no doubt he will make a good leader, I am just concerned about the direction he is leading.”

Weather in accordance with Obama’s policies or not, no one denies the need for change and the experience of this historic election. Younger generations have become more interested in politics while the face of politics themselves is changing. America is stepping into a new era of cooperation and action.

“It is America’s job, our job as the people regardless of party affiliation to support who has the job of President.” Said Amanda Morgan Senior Early Childhood Education major, “ It is a hard position and America will only accomplish her goals through the support of the American people.”

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ROBERT GATES
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE



JANET NAPOLITANO
SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WEB



LISSA SPEER / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The first floor of the library was packed as students and faculty watch history unfold with the inauguration of Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States. Many spectators were emotional and elated as the president delivered a memorable and moving speech.

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Career Center introduces peer to peer counseling to students

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
SENIOR REPORTER

In an effort to boost student involvement, the Career Center has implemented a new student-led program, Career Peer Advisors (CPA).

The program, modeled after similar organizations at Georgia State University and Berry College, will take full effect at the beginning of February.

“We needed a program to bridge the gap between the office and students,” Mary Roberts, director of the Career Center, said. “Students feel more comfortable working with other students.”

The program is comprised of six students who, according to Roberts, exhibited excellent qualifications.

“All the students that completed the application process and interview were

chosen,” Roberts said. “They all brought good ideas to the table and seemed really excited.”

Amy Gilbert, a senior public rhetoric major, is one of the six peer advisors.

“It’s a really good opportunity to get ready for the real world,” she said. “It’s also an opportunity to help students figure out that they have more options than they may realize.”

The other five peer advisors are sophomore mass communication majors Caroline Davis and Fabianna Field-Green, sophomore marketing and management major Roslyn Ellis, junior liberal studies major Kaitlyn MacDonell, and junior mass communication major Marianna Miller.

Currently the six students are

Peer Advising Page 5

I WANT YOU

Pick up an application on the second floor of Terrell Hall.

Deadline to apply is Feb. 11

For more information contact Corey Dickstein at Corey.Dickstein@gmail.com

For Editor in Chief of The Colonnade

Night rides for safety

BY RYAN DEL CAMPO
STAFF REPORTER

At the end of those long nights studying in the library, walking alone to the dorms or an apartment can be intimidating. Despite Milledgeville's usually safe streets and sidewalks, having a buddy with you will provide some extra reassurance.

Public Safety has reinstated the Student Night Auxiliary Patrol (SNAP) to help maintain students' feelings of safety. Student volunteers in this program will help Public Safety chiefly in providing an extra set of eyes and an escort to students around campus or some surrounding apartments.

The program was last used in 2005, but was discontinued after the Department of Parking and Transportation split from Public Safety. SNAP consists of eight volunteers, each who have committed to serving four to six hours per week. Public Safety searched for highly motivated students who had some interest in law enforcement.

Officer Greg Williams has taken the lead in organizing SNAP, and has filled all eight positions, but is continually accepting applications for new candidates.

"Having this program," Williams said, "will mainly help because the volunteers will not be restricted by the call volume or business of the Police Department. The students will be more accessible."

The students involved with SNAP do not have the authority of a police officer, but have the responsibility to report any crimes they see while on patrol.

SNAP was not created with the intention

of being a drunk shuttle. Freshman Evan Karanovich, known to dispatch as "one-three-seven," emphasizes that his responsibility as a SNAP member comes mainly from his civic duty.

Milledgeville and the GCSU community "cannot tolerate drunk drivers," he said, "it is everybody's civic duty to call that guy out if they see him getting into a car to drive blatantly drunk."

The focal importance of SNAP does not come from its late-night weekend duties.

SNAP will run Sunday to Thursday every school week. It will run from 8:00PM to midnight Sunday through Tuesday, and 8:00PM to 2:30AM on Wednesday and Thursday. These hours were designed to help those people who simply need an escort.

The volunteers began their training on Thursday, January 15. Evan was very excited to start his training.

"As a student, I want GCSU to have the best and

safest campus possible," Karanovich said, "What we are doing is being proactive; we are out to help the common good of all."

This Tuesday was the first day the program ran at night. They escorted 16 people, mainly from the library to the residence halls.

The benefits of the program heavily outweigh its costs. SNAP costs nearly nothing, only a one-time expense for their shirts which will be covered by SGA. The golf carts used are borrowed from Physical Operations, and the radios were already owned by Public Safety. In addition to the benefits for all GCSU students, it will also

SNAP Page 5

Recession likely to hit students' pockets and decisions further

BY BETH BENTON
STAFF WRITER

Many students were surprised to receive an e-mail about an additional \$100 fee spurred by the economic recession. In this message, Dr. Bruce Harshbarger, Vice President for Student Affairs, said state revenues have fallen and the University System must reduce spending. Consequently, students were hit with the additional fee.

"The economic recession affecting the nation has not bypassed the State of Georgia or Georgia College," Harshbarger wrote, though he also noted, "Georgia College remains committed to meeting these current financial challenges in ways that have minimal affect on our academic mission and our students."

Though many students were angered by the fee imposed only two weeks before the winter break, many failed to realize that faculty and staff members are also suffering. Colleges and universities decided to trim spending by a total of 8 percent, and faculty and staff members now have to pay a larger percentage of their health insurance cost. Cathy J. Crawley, Director of Financial Aid, said "the whole campus was hit," stating "these financial hardships are appearing nationwide and GCSU is not untouched."

"A lot has happened over the last six months," Crawley said. "Things were done at

the state level that impacted universities."

Fees such as the temporary \$100 fee have been instituted because of these state level decisions, but measures to help students are also being made. Crawley said that in May of 2008 President Bush saw that students would need additional money and made it possible for them to increase their loans by \$2,000. Seeing that there is still a need, Bush ensured this additional funding would remain available for the 2009-2010 school year.

"We realize that students and parents are hit. We take this very seriously," Crawley said.

Crawley further added that students in need may find it harder to get private loans, which are not guaranteed, but federal regulated loans are available and have low interest rates so the student is protected. In response to the economic recession, Crawley encourages students "to let us try to help you. That's what we're here for."

Enrollment numbers are another concern caused by the recession, but at this point, according to Registrar Kay Anderson, GCSU has not seen a significant change. In fact, spring enrollment this year is currently higher than last year.

"We always have a few students who leave every term. We expect that," Anderson said.

Though some students did withdrawal or

Recession Page 5

Homecoming 2009:

Despite recession and budget cuts, festivities look to top last year's

BY ELYSE COLCORD
STAFF WRITER

Homecoming, Alumni weekend and Greek Week will all combine to make this year's homecoming theme, "Old Traditions, New Beginnings" with a \$14,000 budget increase.

Despite the economic hard times, homecoming week will not be cutting any corners because the funding comes from a wide variety of sources and also the mandatory \$50 student fee. Last year, the budget came out at \$52,000. For 2009, the budget sits at \$66,000.

This year the all encompassing team headed by Tom Miles Student Life Director, Cindy McClanahan Housing Marketing Coordinator and Ryan Greene SGA president look forward to inspiring a new traditional spirit for years to come.

Miles is an energetic man with a passion for his job. He wants students to have a memorable experience during their time here at GCSU.

"I want to develop traditions so the students have something they can look forward to each year and alumni also," Miles said. "Homecoming has been slowly building over the last five years, and now that we have the strong leadership and funding we are going

headstrong now."

This year for the Friday night concert, Cartel and Shop Boyz will hit the stage on West Campus at 8 p.m. Cartel and Shop Boyz both originated from Georgia. Cartel, a rock band, is best known for their single, "Honestly." Shop Boyz, a hip-hop group, busted into the rap scene with their single, "Party like a Rockstar."

Bobcat Vision has already given away a few free tickets through the game Wheel of Fortune. More tickets to the concert will be given away throughout homecoming week at the different events. Also, for a few lucky procrastinators, Z.97 will be giving away some tickets at the concert that night.

Concert tickets can be purchased at the Student Center for \$10 with the Bobcat id. Students from other schools who want to see Cartel and Shop Boyz can get tickets for only \$15 where as the regular online price is \$26. Regarding alcohol, the same rules apply as last year with a maximum of 72 oz. in coolers.

GCSU kicks the week off Monday and Tuesday by judging the spirit of faculty and students in residence halls and office doors. Tuesday night CAB will show "Dark Knight" in Magnolia Ballroom. Wednesday begins

Homecoming Page 5



ERIN GISH / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Last year's Sister Hazel concert for Homecoming proved to be one of the most successful.



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February 19 | ASU Athletic Complex | 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

GCSU CAREER EXPO
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Firm or plush? Students now have mattress options

BY TIM GRAHAM
STAFF REPORTER

The quality of a mattress can go a long way in determining if someone gets a good night of sleep. For about 400 students living at The Village at West Campus, that quality is about to improve greatly as University Housing is replacing the mattresses in the 100, 200, and 300 buildings.

What makes it interesting is the style of the new mattresses. Designed by University Sleep Products Inc., Inverted Seam Inner-spring Mattress is seamless on the outside. It also has two sides, a soft ("plush firm") and a firm ("extra firm") side, allowing students to select what side they prefer.

According to their Web Site, the mattress is also "fluid-proof, easily cleanable, bacteria resistant and very stain resistant." The fact that it is seamless on the outside also decreases the chances for bedbugs, which has become an increasing problem in dorms and residence halls around the nation. It has also passed strenuous fire safety tests, so it proves a major upgrade from the old mattresses that students have been using.

Some mattresses have already been handed out to be tested, and the early feedback has been very positive, citing it as a major upgrade from the old mattress.

10 students were randomly selected to be part of the sample group in late November during an event held at West Campus. After having the mattress delivered to them, they were all asked for feedback. All of the participants, including sophomore Tyler Mabe,

seemed to enjoy it.

"The mattress is amazing!" said Mabe. "I know that sounds a little overboard but it's really nice. I can come back from class and go right back to bed."

"The mattresses are quiet and very comfortable," he said. "I [especially] like the fact that one side is firm and the other plush. The plush side is the side that I like the most."

Other responses were positive as well. Elizabeth Johnson said that the mattress "does not sink in the middle like the older ones did. It is also much firmer, promoting overall comfort."

Krystal Parker also liked the new mattress, saying that she woke up refreshed every morning.

"Five hours of sleep felt like eight hours," Parker commented.

Those who tested the mattress will be allowed to keep them, while the other mattresses will be delivered at a later date.

The new mattresses are part of University Housing's new campaign, 24U. Housing Marketing Coordinator Cindy McClanahan spoke more about it.

"24U is our campaign tag line," said McClanahan. "It means that University Housing is focused on you 24/7. Living on campus gives you ultimate access to everything campus has to offer all day, all night."

McClanahan said to look for more things to come in the future, but for right now some Housing students can rest more comfortably knowing that a better mattress will be under them soon.

Peer Advising

Continued from Page 2...

undergoing a training process intended to prepare them to help their fellow students in areas such as résumés, mock interviews, and internship and job searching.

"(Training) is helpful because it puts us in the position the students we will be helping out are in," Gilbert said. "It helps us to relate to what they are going through."

The training will be completed in the first week of February, but the peer advisors are already beginning to spread the word about the program around campus.

"I'm going to speak to a class already

next week," Gilbert said.

Roberts said that peer advisors will be available to speak to classes, residence halls and student organizations. To book a speaker contact Jennifer Cash, the assistant director of the Career Center.

"You'll see (the peer advisors) around campus," Roberts said. "They will be in blue Career Center polos, and they'll be around for events and have tables set up."

CPA's first table will be set up on Jan. 27 with Geico.

"We'll be around campus and we're really excited to start helping people out," Gilbert said. "We'll have office hours posted and just be available to other students who will take advantage this."

Homecoming

Continued from Page 3...

with softball and a bonfire if the weather permits. Later that night, a spirit case showdown happens with a step off. Thursday presents a few new events such as the Rock, Paper, Scissors Contest and the Blue and Green College Bowl.

McClanahan talks of a few but significant differences for this year.

"Logistically, we are more prepared. The planning stage started much earlier this year. We've worked to refine and improve popular traditional events such as the concert, while also adding fresh new ideas like the Rock, Paper, Scissors Contest that should be a lot of fun," McClanahan said.

The popular hand game usually used to compete for front seat in a car will be

played for hefty, desirable prizes along with the Blue and Green College Bowl trivia game.

The Homecoming festivities will be held fro Feb.16- Feb. 21. Major events many will look forward to include Friday, Feb. 20 activities with the anticipated Cartel and Shop Boyz coming to entertain the masses. Saturday closes out the week with plenty of exciting athletic events and the parade. The day begins with the Bobcat Ramble at 8 a.m. Then the parade begins at 12:30 p.m. with Dr. Dorothy Leland leading as Grand Marshall. The parade will end at the Centennial Center where homecoming women's and men's basketball games will occur. The women's game starts at 2 p.m. and the men begin at 4p.m. After the men's game, Mr. and Mrs. GCSU will be announced.

Snap

Continued from Page 3...

help the volunteers gain hands-on experience in making a difference to the safety of their peers.

To contact SNAP during these hours, call Public Safety at (478) 445-4054. An

Recession

Continued from Page 3...

transfer because of personal reasons, Anderson has not seen a decline in numbers due to economical hardships.

Aside from additional fees and drop-out rates, many students biggest worry about the economic recession is not merely paying for school, but figuring out what to do upon graduation. Dr. Christopher Clark, Assistant Professor of Economics, noted that graduating seniors may have trouble finding jobs since the recession has caused the job market to dry

up. officer will send a radio dispatch to the volunteer. Otherwise, students can recognize one to flag down on the street by their distinctive green polo shirts. Also, more information can be found on their Facebook group, "GCSU S.N.A.P."

Officer Williams hopes that SNAP will continue to be helpful to the student body.

"We will continue to run this program as long as the students want it," Williams said.

up.

Clark advises students to consider graduate school and, when looking for jobs, be flexible in location. He said applying for graduate school or a career will be competitive, so students should "find a way to differentiate themselves from other applicants." Clark also said that he does not foresee another Depression since job loss has slowed and the country has learned from past events.

"I don't think there is a possibility of another Depression," Clark said. "After the Great Depression, the government instituted a lot of things, such as FDIC, welfare, and unemployment, to prevent that from happening again."

Our Voice

Unbiased reporting:
The foundation of journalism

This nation has entered a new age with the inauguration of President Barack Obama on Tuesday afternoon. Yet, even as the new Commander-in-Chief embarks on his initial week in office, complaints continue to ring though the media.

Cindy McCain, the wife of former presidential hopeful John McCain, issued the latest complaint. She sited the "media bias" as a major reason for the Obama victory. "I do believe that the media had a specific agenda and with that said, the American people cast their vote," Cindy McCain said.

McCain went on to describe "everyone" as a reporter, and stated, "There is very little difference now between journalism and gossip."

As reporters in the making, the staff of The Colonnade, finds Mrs. McCain's comments rather interesting.

While there is certainly a perceived bias in the media, we can only stick to what we have been taught in our countless hours of journalism classes and what we practice at this newspaper.

We fully believe in providing the campus community of GCSU with unbiased reporting. With that said, we would like to take the opportunity to explain that there is a difference between a reporter and a commentator or columnist.

Unfortunately, in this day and age many people get the majority of their news from biased sources, for example commentators on news programs (think Bill O'Reilly or Rush Limbaugh). These individuals are not reporters.

Reporters are journalists who strive to provide an unbiased public service. We truly believe that there are many, many real reporters left out in the world.

To Mrs. McCain's second point that "everyone" is a reporter in this day and age, we take a bit of offense to this. We have spent our college years learning the ins and outs of this profession.

Yes, it is true that the general public certainly contributes to reporting, but it is the journalists working countless hours to uncover stories that break the biggest news.

We will continue to do our best to bring you the news you need to know without bias.

Please send responses to
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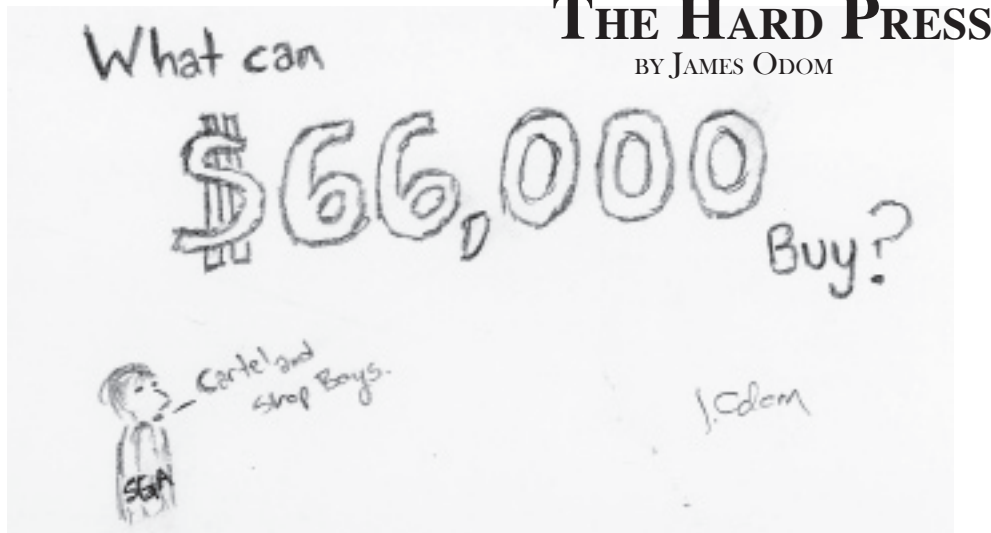
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A new list for a New Year



BY EVAN ALLGOOD
COLUMNIST

Typically, new-year In/Out lists are compiled prior to and published on Jan. 1, in either a brave attempt at savant-like pop culture prescience or a pathetic desire to coddle readers. Well, not this one. I've been cautiously dipping my toe into 2009's sleek, shimmering pool for the past few weeks (it's a touch surface), testing its already violent waters as to give you the most belated forecast possible. What I've seen may encourage or hor-

rify you, it may be strikingly accurate or wildly off the mark; regardless, come December, I will be childishly claiming I told you so.

Because In/Out is played out and Hot/Not reminds me of a self-esteem-annihilating Internet experience I once had, I'd like to invoke Andre 3000 here (not on the list, but he's due for a comeback) and remind everyone what's cooler than being cool. That's right: Ice Cold. (For the record, though, not everything

in the Cool column is genuinely cool. O.J. Simpson, for instance.)

I only wish the endangered species of print media lent themselves more generously to the third dimension (3-D); not only because it would exponentially increase their chances of surviving the (relatively) new year, but also because the following items would then leap off the page and fly straight into your eager eyeballs:

ICE COLD	COOL
Change we can afford	Change we can believe in
Throwing shoes	Throwing 'bows
Going green	Having green
Wolverine	Iron Man
Seth Rogan	Jim Carrey
Harry Potter	Twilight
Lost	Heroes
SNL	CSI
Putting a ring on it	Liking it idly
Jay-Z	Jeezy
Hill-Dawg	Slick Willie
The Jonas Brothers	Premarital sex
O.J. Mayo	O.J. Simpson
Matt Ryan	Matt Leinart
Fantasy football	Actual football
GChat	AIM
Touch screens	Buttons
3-D movies	Reasonably priced movies
Big Sunglasses	Huge sunglasses
Blogs	Newspapers

2009 predictions for every month



BY ANDREW ADAMS
COLUMNIST

A lot of unpredictable things happened in 2008. Now that we have a new year beginning, I will undertake the task of trying to predict what will happen in 2009. Since January is almost past, I will begin in February.

February:

Dennis Kucinich, the perpetual Presidential candidate, announces his candidacy for the 2012 Democratic nomination for President. He claims the Obama administration has had a disastrous first eleven days.

During a speech, President Barack Obama notices that the spectators are hungry. He finds someone with three fish and five loaves of bread and multiplies it enough to feed 5,000.

Valentines Day comes and goes, and I forget to get my lovely fiancé flowers because I'm too busy writing a column for the Colonnade. I'm temporarily moved to the dog house.

March:

The NCAA men's basketball tournament consumes the nation as millions of workers stop using company computers to check facebook and now use office computers

to check up on their school's games. Georgia Tech wins the tournament becoming the first 16 seed to win national championship. (Hey, a guy can dream).

President Obama walks on water while leaving an aircraft carrier.

April:

Jimmy Carter reports seeing a UFO...again.

Three liberal leaning Supreme Court justices immediately retire feeling confident that President Obama will replace them with like-minded judges. President Obama then proceeds to nominate Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson. Republicans decide to filibuster the Cowell nomination after he criticizes their singing as sounding like a cat falling off the Empire State Building.

President Obama heals a blind man.

May:

After over half a year of single-handedly trying to improve his legacy, former President George W. Bush finally decides to give up when he looks at his poll numbers and sees that they are in the negatives.

President Obama performs another miracle by holding a joint press conference with former President Bush that resurrects his poll numbers to positive numbers.

My beautiful fiancé becomes my beautiful wife. I am still in the dog house.

June:

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton allows her husband, former President Bill Clinton to hire his first female intern since the Lewinsky scandal in 1998. The conditions the intern must meet are as fol-

lows: a morbidly obese, septuagenarian with bad acne and a peg leg. Sexual relations occur anyway.

President Obama visits a bar that runs out of alcohol. He then turns water into wine.

July:

Major League Baseball holds its annual All-Star game. In the third inning of a tied game, Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig cancels the rest of the game so that the players will not get tired or injured.

President Obama gives a speech where he announces his plans to expand the size and role of the federal government. Several founding fathers roll over in their graves. Liberals point to this as proof of Barack Obama performing a brief resurrection. His poll numbers soar.

August:

Former Republican Vice-Presidential candidate, Sarah Palin, mauls Tina Fey in a New York City parking lot. Immediately following the incident, Tina Fey makes an obvious "pit bull with lipstick" joke.

Hurricane season starts with a massive hurricane headed towards New Orleans. President Obama arrives at New Orleans before the hurricane and as the rain begins he says some words that calm the storm. Millions around the nation ask why former President Bush didn't do this?

September:

Vice-President Joe Biden gives a speech where he makes another semi-racist comment about President Obama. President Obama then preaches the virtue of

forgiveness and challenges all in the press corps that only he who is without sin should cast the first stone. President Obama then throws a rock at Vice-President Biden.

October:

The Braves humiliate the New York Yankees in the World Series. I win my fantasy baseball league (now I'm really dreaming!)

Former Vice-President Dick Cheney goes hunting in Wyoming. Homeland Security puts the entire state of Wyoming on Red Alert just in case.

Noticing a shortage in government revenue, President Obama opens a fish's mouth and finds \$1,174,349,565,238.71.

November:

Britney Spears has another very public breakdown. President Obama is waiting at the barber shop for her where he proceeds to cast out her demon. He has single-handedly saved the world from seeing Britney Spears bald again.

Following President Bush's example of visiting Iraq on Thanksgiving to serve the soldiers turkey, President Obama visits every house in America via sleigh delivering a turkey and a commemorative Obama Presidential plate.

December:

Gas prices soar to \$2.50 per gallon. Americans everywhere go crazy at this astronomical price.

President Obama finishes the year by single handedly ending global warming, AIDS, poverty, world hunger, terrorism, racism, sexism, Communism, pollution, genocide and the BCS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sticking up for Chambliss

Dear Editor,

I have a few comments about the article on Rx Abuse among students published a few weeks ago- Methylphenidate is not in Adderall. Adderall is a mixture of Salts of Amphetamine. Methylphenidate is the generic name for Ritalin or Daytrana. Otherwise, a good article discussing an important topic.

Perhaps you guys should follow up with an article discussing drug interactions (such as recreational users taking multiple depressants at a time). I think that mixing drugs is the most dangerous aspect of illicit use, as seen in the death of Heath Ledger.

Asking a Pharmacist would be a good source of information.

Jonathan Riley

Sticking up for Chambliss

Dear Editor,

I am an upcoming freshman for the Fall of 2009. Publicly, I would like to thank the GCSU family for all they have already done for me.

I'm a senior in high school, and I began visiting our magical place in October 2007 to search for the right college for me. As a student with a bit of a physical challenge, the outpouring of support from faculty, staff, and students nearly the instant I stepped foot on campus is immeasurable. Mike Chambers, director of Disability Services, has been wonderful.

I'm so proud to be a Bobcat. Thank you, each and every one of you, from the bottom of my heart.

Erin Breedlove
Future GCSU student

The Colonnade encourages readers to express their views and opinions by sending letters to the editor at: CBX 2442; Milledgeville, Ga. 31061 or by e-mail at colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

All letters must be typed and include:

- names
- address/ Email address
- telephone number
- year of study
- major

Only your name, year of study and major will be listed.

- Unsigned letters will not be printed. Names will be withheld only under very unusual circumstances.
- Letters longer than 300 words may be condensed.
- All letters will be edited for grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.
- All letters become the property of The Colonnade and cannot be returned.
- We are not able to acknowledge their receipt or disposition. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the Editor in Chief.

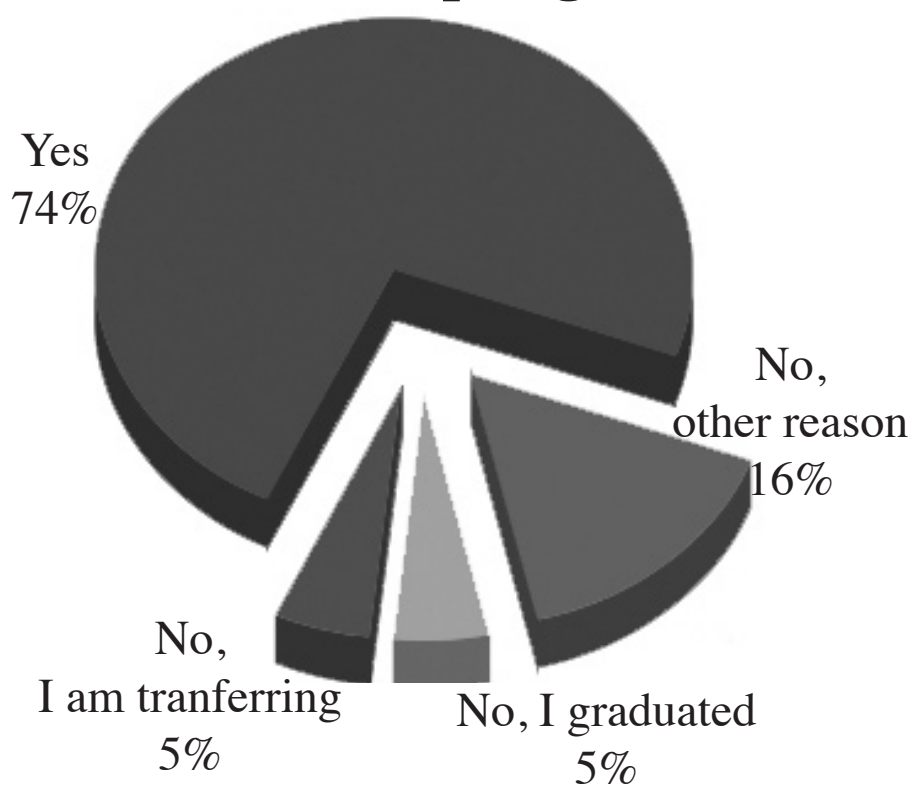
Got something to say?

The Colonnade is always looking to hear from you. Agree or disagree with something in the paper, write a letter to the editor and send it to colonnadeletter@gcsu.edu. Just need to get something off your chest send us a vent to colonnadevent.com on AIM. Or log onto GCSUnade.com and comment on any of our stories. Don't go unheard, it's your voice so use it!

POLL OF THE WEEK

GRAPHIC BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Will you be back at GCSU for Spring 2009?



Next week's question:
Do you like the band choices for Homecoming (Cartel and Shop Boyz)?

- Yes
- No
- Indifferent

Vote online at GCSUnade.com

Got more to say? Let us know with a letter to the editor! Send them to Colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu.



Did you watch the inauguration, what did you think?



“Yes I watched it, I was really happy, this will be good for America.”

Ashleigh Smauel, freshmen, liberal arts

“I watched the recaps, it was interesting.”

Erin Williams, junior, English & theatre



“I watched some of it, I thought it was really powerful.”

Leigh Tankersley, junior, psychology

“I did watch it, I read about it, it was deep.”

Lucia Caltabiano, freshman, sociology & psychology



“I watched it, there was a well-given speech and a lot of people in support.”

Taryn Neurohr, sophomore, psychology

Reported by Bobby Gentry

The Litter Box

Instant Message with "ColonnadeVent"

ColonnadeVent
Last message received at: 6:33:10 PM

Holy cats! Cartel + Shop Boyz = the reason why I'm going to homecoming events... I love this school.

Okay so that time span between your last final and the last day to post grades SUCKS! I'm so tense. this is horrible. I'm like a festive bird right before the holidays, lol.

My fiance just finished a final exam that took him four hours to complete. What's wrong with this picture? He's an undergraduate! Professors shouldn't be able to do that.

I HATE R!!!! It is the dumbest computer program and it won't download, and I HATE MATH!!! I also hate how the website is saying my name is not my name....NEW FLASH: I KNOW MY NAME!!!!!! ERRRRRRR!

People above me shouldn't be so d*** loud when they're having sex!

If you see the trash is full - EMPTY IT!!!!

Just wipe it off!

Obama is my hero.

Clean your freakin' dishes. It doesn't take very long to put them in the dishwasher.... Jeez.

Yummy, coffee... I can't live without you.

Lucida G... 12 B Z U A A Link

Want to vent about something? Send us a message about what's bothering you to screen name ColonnadeVent using AOL Instant Messenger (AIM), or by E-mail to colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu, with the subject 'Vent.'

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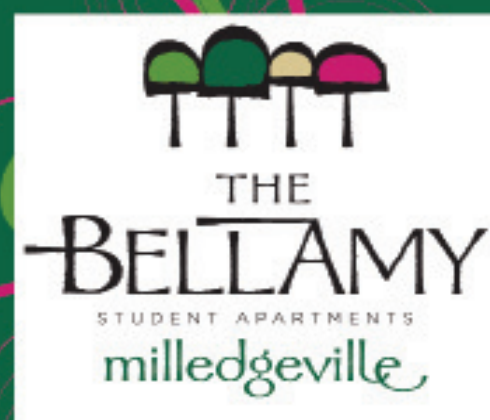
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Milledgeville locals audition talents



GCSU students and local residents of all ages performed their talents for the judges of Milledgeville's Got Talent, a production that is planned for March 27.

BY KYLE COLLINS
SENIOR REPORTER

The reality show obsession American Idol kicked off it's 2009 season Jan. 13. Millions of fans can not get enough of talented singers and entertaining critiques from the presiding judge panel.

In addition to GCSU and Milledgeville Idol events, local residents and college students have another competition developed in a reality TV mold. Last Tuesday, the new production, Milledgeville's Got Talent, began auditions.

After the success of Milledgeville Idol last August, GCSU's Department of Continuing Education decided to develop this new competition for spring. Danielle Fields, a program coordinator for continuing education, and Z97 FM local personality Phillip Joiner are co-executive producers of Milledgeville's Got Talent. Joiner will host the event on March 27 in Russell Auditorium.

"We decided to do (Milledgeville) Idol in an effort to see if we could get the community to come out and blend no matter what their background or status," Fields said.

The turnout for Milledgeville Idol was more than expected. Fields said they had to turn so many

people away because they couldn't sing, but still had talent.

Auditions for the talent competition were expanded beyond just singers. Participants with skills in dance, instrumentals and hip-hop got their chance to perform.

A four judge panel evaluated each person's skill set. In addition to Joiner and Fields, the audition judges included former GCSU Idol contestant Mary Zehner and dance critic Sarah Stone.

Between the two days of auditions, both local high-schoolers and GCSU students alike got to test their talent against experienced observers in hopes of making the cut.

"The cool thing is there is no age limit," Joiner said.

Opening tryouts brought out a talented mix from belly dancing to a band with an eight-year-old drummer. The young boy got more reaction than most from Joiner.

"I started playing drums when I was 11, so you got me," Joiner said.

A contestant from 2008's Milledgeville Idol, Chay Aycock was comfortable with the atmosphere. Having multiple competitions and auditions on her resume, Aycock exhibited a natural poise during her performance.

Aycock, a high school senior, will pursue a vocal performance major at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tenn. next fall. Her musical foundations are rooted in Southern gospel and country music, which as an African-American gives her a unique appeal.

If she makes the big show in March, Aycock plans to switch her performance up from Milledgeville Idol.

"I take each competition as a learning experience," Aycock said. "I'll definitely take a different genre that I did last time because my comfort zone is a little bit different considering you don't see very many black people singing country."

Junior liberal studies major Andrea Valera kept auditions fresh with her belly dancing routine. Unlike the jazz or salsa dance groups choreographed numbers, Valera went straight improv.

The native Venezuelan is mostly self-taught. Valera imitated what she saw in popular artists like Shakira, whose belly dancing is world renowned.

The audition for Milledgeville's Got Talent is the first competition for Valera. She would love to continue her talent one day.

"Maybe I could teach it (belly

dancing) for real and have a salon or something where I could teach," Valera said.

Two rap groups including Milledgeville's Urban Soldiers flowed over urban beats. Both Urban Soldier members are attending Baldwin High School.

Even though the panel isn't used to that genre, Doggboi and female partner I.T. impressed the judges. The original song had a positive message and featured a freestyle by both members during the closing verses. When a rapper freestyles, they throw together lines on the spot with no memorized lyrics.

Zehner is pleased with the variety of talent they get to narrow down. A final audition on Jan. 22 wraps up the preliminaries.

"Once we get the thoughts from the other two judges, Danielle and I will sit down and determine the lineup," Joiner said.

Fields said they will choose at least 10 and possibly a few alternates in case those selected have any conflicts arise.

"We are hoping to bring the community together," Fields said. "We sold out for (Milledgeville) Idol, so we're expecting the same thing for this."

New Year's goals motivate students

BY MATT ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

Have you been wanting to change something about yourself but can't make yourself start? 2009 is here. Now is the best time to start. A new year signifies a time to focus on change. New Year's resolutions give us hope to rid ourselves of our bad habits and a chance to embrace some better ones.

GCSU, along with America as a whole, seems to agree that it is time to rid ourselves of that extra weight. The Colonnade conducted an informal survey of GCSU students to see what their New Year's resolution was. The survey concluded that getting fit was the number one resolution among GCSU students and losing weight was a close second. Our survey almost matched the popular resolutions found by the U.S. government, which found "losing weight" to be number one.

The Depot's increased volume of students since winter break has also reflected our survey's finding.

"There's been a big increase [of students]," Student assistant at the Depot Lindsay Timms said. "It's been really busy."

Student opinion differs on how effective resolutions work in people's lives.

"I'd rather make changes for myself than just for a New Year's resolution," Junior Beth Shepherd said. "But resolutions can hold people accountable to make changes."

"New Year's resolutions are a way to trick yourself to do something productive but gives you an excuse to slack off until the New Year starts," Freshman Ross Sheppard said.

New Year's resolutions are nothing new. According to a New Year's Resolution Fact site, New Year's resolutions date back to 153 B.C. when Janus, a mythical king of Rome, who had two faces, was worshipped. His faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. Janus symbolized their resolutions and many Romans sought for givenness from their adversaries and also exchanged gifts before the beginning of the New Year.

Some believe that New Year's resolutions date back even further than the Romans. The Babylonians started the tradition of resolutions around 2000 B.C. The Babylonians' number one resolution was surprisingly not losing weight or getting fit, but to return borrowed farm equipment.

New Year's day hasn't always been on Jan. 1 either. The Babylonians celebrated the New Year after the Vernal Equinox, Mar. 23 on our calendar. Their celebration didn't end after just one night; it lasted 11 days. The Romans continued the celebration of the New Year on Mar. 25. However, emperors over time tampered with the calendar and eventually it became out of synchronization with the sun. To solve this issue, the Roman senate, in 153 B.C., declared Jan. 1 the beginning of the New Year.

Unfortunately, this tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 B.C., introduced what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It kept Jan. 1 as the New Year, but in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year continue for 445 days.

Taiko drummers enthrall audience with their art

BY RYAN DEL CAMPO
STAFF REPORTER

The show started with a bang. Five performers stood by their drums; four at deep drums and one in front at a small high-pitched drum. They played a five minute song, shaking the halls of Russell Auditorium, and captivated their audiences' attention from the beginning.

The Ronin Taiko Drummers have performed together for about five years, but their art form has existed in Asia for 8,000 years. "Taiko" in Japanese literally translates to "drum" or "wide drum." These massive percussive instruments were first used in modern-day China and Korea to encourage soldiers in war, as a method of calling orders, and to delineate borders. The Shinto and Buddhist drummers who played the taiko long ago believe a God lives in the drum.

Modern uses of the taiko in Japan commonly occur at fishermen festivals known as matsuri, and as encouragement to loggers and fishers on the shores.

Ronin tries to maintain an authentic feel to its performance. The performers have mastered a mix of both musical talent and martial arts.

One of the performers described their show as "all of the physical, mental, and spiritual aspects of life brought together."



Taiko drummer performs in Russell Auditorium for GCSU students and staff.

CLAIRE DYKES / STAFF REPORTER

They quite literally live, breathe, and perform their art. Their performances usually last an hour and a half, but they live their art continuously by practicing and meditating. Their rigorous training can also include running, weight lifting, and long hours of exhausting practice.

Their practice also requires a mastery of their group "ma," or feeling of rhythm by way of the intervals of space in between them. This fascinating concept requires that the trained musicians give up their sense of rhythm and definition

of musical time, and instead simply feel the beat. Each player must be completely in sync with the rest of the group to achieve the perfection Ronin strives for.

The English system of rhythm in bass drumming, as they explained, relies on a series of straight eighth notes. Another system, which they explained like a horse uses a syncopated feel. Matsuri and traditional taiko playing uses a distinctive triplet feel.

The drums they use range from the meter diameter shime-daiko to the much larger and deeper hira-daiko. Positions to play the drums include straddling the drum and leaning back as well as squatting beside the drum, both of which can be physically demanding.

The show also includes various other percussive instruments like cymbals and incorporates a type of flute. These instruments serve to cut through the deep bass of all of the drums to help to keep the rhythm. Each performer also punctuates their drumming with accented and short vocal calls.

"I really enjoyed the show," said Freshman Colin McLean, "I had to go for my music class, but I am definitely glad I saw them."

Ronin Taiko Drummers certainly captivated their audience throughout their performance. This initial performance for the semester set the bar high for the rest of the scheduled performances at GCSU.

Spotlight

BY CHELSEA THOMAS



How to: Fight winter's wrath

Come January the winter winds pick up and nature seems to be shivering all around us. Temperatures plunge and heating bills rise. Here are some classic, as well as alternative ways to stay warm throughout the day and at home.

5 Forms of winters wrath:

- Wind : Layers and wind resistant fabrics fight this the best.
- Moisture : Staying dry is essential. Wet fabrics release heat.
- Radiation: Wear beanies, snow caps or hats. About 50% of body heat escapes from your head or neck.
- Breathing: Cover your face and mouth to inhale and create warmer air.
- Conduction: Wear gloves and avoid touching cold objects, like metals.

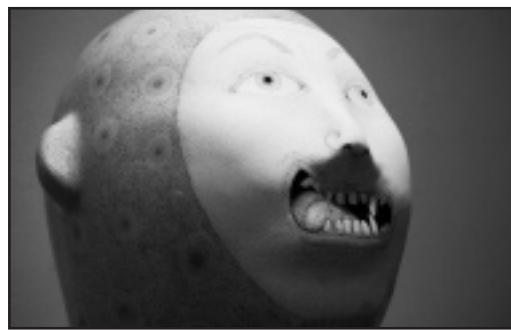
Helpful hints:

- 1) Keep clothing clean. Insulation is only effective when heat is contained by dead air spaces. Dirt, grime, and perspiration knot fabrics together and demote the efficiency of garments.
- 2) Drink more liquids. Without warming the cold causes us to lose more body fluids.
- 3) Eat food high in calories like beef, nuts, stews, or cheeses. Faster digestive tracks can create more body heat.
- 4) Own one jacket that is well-insulated, wind resistant, and water proof.
- 5) Fur-lined hoods decrease wind chill considerably.

Clothing:

- 1) *Loose Layers*: Not only are layers in style, but they provide the best insulation. With looser layering, warm air will be trapped between the different layers. This also allows for better regulation of body heat when you can remove pieces of clothing easier. There is also unrestricted blood flow with looser fitting clothes, preventing sweat.
- 2) *Footwear*: Socks are essential. Whereas boots and athletic shoes resist the majority of wind and weather, the best way to maintain warmth for your feet is to wear socks. For camping or longer durations outside, use the layering technique. First put on a pair of silk, nylon, or thin wool socks. Then put a thicker cotton or wool sock over that to preserve heat.
- 3) *Scarves and hats*: This may come as a shock, but these are not just meant to be an accessory. Wrap the scarf around your neck and tuck it into your jacket to warm your chest. Even more so than your feet, your head releases a lot of body heat. Covering your head with a beanie or baseball cap reduces the loss of body heat.
- 4) *Tights*: Put on tights or leggings underneath your pants. This feels like another layer of skin and can go a long way.
- 5) *Gloves*: By wearing gloves or mittens that cover your hands up to your wrist you are not allowing any cold air circulation to move through.

Professor's Latino-inspired art on display at Blackbridge



BOBBY GENTRY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Art Professor Sandra Trujillo's art is inspired by traditional Spanish festival masks.

BY CLAIRE KERSEY
STAFF REPORTER

Oversized ceramic heads shoot glazed stares at visitors to the Blackbridge Hall art gallery. Although some of them seem benign, they all have a message behind them. They are part of the newest art exhibit, "Churros Locos," which held its opening reception and gallery talk Jan. 22.

The show features the works of art professor Sandra Trujillo. The show is a rite of passage for all new art faculty after a year at GCSU. It shows students and faculty the professor's perspective and style of art.

"Churros Locos" puts a new spin on Spanish festival masks, called los gigantes (giants) and cabezudos (big heads), which are usually made of papier-mâché. Los gigantes wore the masks while walking on stilts, but los cabezudos wore the masks alone. They are normally humorous depictions of peasants, kings, queens and other figures. By creating them using various ceramic materials and techniques, Trujillo makes the masks her own, updating the subjects depicted to comment on today's world.

"The show was definitely inspired by thinking of those large heads and seeing what they would be like on a larger scale," Trujillo said.

Her artistic process begins with a drawing with a cast of characters and a story behind them. From the drawing, the images are transferred to a ceramic surface to be painted and fired in the kiln. The sketches that inspired the main pieces are also on display, showing the viewer the six months of hard work that went into the collection.

The name "Churros Locos" came from the festival atmosphere that Trujillo's work exudes. A churro is a fried cornmeal dessert that can be covered with cinnamon or chocolate; it

is often served at carnivals, parades and other celebrations. By associating the food with the artwork, Trujillo augments the connection with Latino culture.

"I wanted to take this idea of these carnival figures and realize them in ceramic," Trujillo said.

Some of the pieces are from a previous collection of work dealing with the relationship between portraiture and patronage.

"I still consider them to be portraits, but I think they're maps of something larger than myself," she said.

Trujillo's art also makes statements about politics and current events.

A piece titled "Gold-Plated Farewell" is her statement on corporate greed. Black paint seeps from underneath the shimmering gold veneer to create the look of oil.

"I called it 'Gold-Plated Farewell' to talk about some of the excesses of the banking institutions...this is a heavier statement than most of (the pieces)," Trujillo said.

One preliminary drawing displayed in the exhibit is titled "Dear Sonny," and is a satirical depiction of Gov. Sonny Perdue's plea to Georgians to pray for rain. This drawing led to the ceramic piece titled "Cold Water," commenting on the water shortage in Georgia. "Cold Water" utilizes a glaze that runs down the length of the piece, resembling water.

Despite some of the heavy political implications, visitors can still be amused. Humor is an essential part of her art, from the subject matter to the name "Churros Locos."

"My belief is that the scale makes them humorous. In adopting this tradition, from which to begin my new work, I wanted to gain that sense of humor with ceramic sculpture," Trujillo wrote in her artist's statement.

The show will be on display through Feb. 6 in the Blackbridge Hall art gallery. The show is free and open to the public.

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All ‘Roads’ lead straight to the Oscars... Rating: A

BY CHRIS MOSKALY
REVIEWER

Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet aren't kids anymore. Following a disappearance act in the shortcoming years that followed "Titanic," one of them successfully matured by starring in a variety of daring roles while the other did more so on the basis of starting a family. And now, after being outperformed by a large ship ten years earlier, these once ill-fated lovers reunite as adults in Sam Mendes' "Revolutionary Road;" a riveting suburban drama that is so well-crafted and so expertly performed, it reminds us of so many classic dramas like it; all the while making its own unique contributions to modern cinema.

Adapted from Richard Yates' timeless classic, "Revolutionary Road" tells the story of Frank and April Wheeler (DiCaprio and Winslet respectively), a coming-of-age couple who move from Manhattan to the Connecticut suburbs hoping to soon realize their dreams as individuals, and as a family with their two children. What begins as a temporary arrangement quickly turns into a heart-breaking crush of reality as the two of them become engrossed by their own ambitions and seem to forget the things that really matter most in a life of happiness; a vision they'll have to work for if they want their marriage to survive.

A running joke I used to throw out when the issue came up every so often, was the irony of how "Titanic" took home eleven Oscars in 1997; none of which included any gold for either of its lead performers. The joke, however, was that if there had to be a "Best Actor" in that film, my vote went directly to the ship itself. Sure it may have just sailed, hit an iceberg and then sank, but it did all of those things perfectly. And it's because of the ship that the movie ever became the phenomenon that it is today. Hmm... I wonder who would've accepted the award on Titanic's behalf?

Regardless of whether or not they were wrongfully overlooked in their youth, both DiCaprio and Winslet have once again found excellence in themselves, and in each other. Coming in, I feared that "Road" would accentuate all of their fiery scenes together perfectly, but then forget to focus on Frank and April separately when the time came. But Sam Mendes leaves not a single bit of quality behind in any of his characters. The leading Wheelers are as fully alive and completely real as any other set of performers Mendes has worked with in the past. He even takes the time to bring about his supporting angles from an annoying gossip realtor (Kathy Bates; another "Titanic" alum) and her institutionalized son played by Michael Shannon; who plays the part like a ticking time bomb just waiting to go off on the right mark... in this case, Frank and April; and boy, what a slap in the face that confrontation turns out to be.

To say that Frank and April are fully

alive and completely real couldn't be anymore truthful as with Kevin Spacey and Annette Bening in "American Beauty." But the important thing to understand about the Wheelers is how multi-layered both of their personalities are as they present themselves to be a classic example of two people who are so perfect for each other because they love to hate each other.

Leonardo DiCaprio has always sparked my enthusiasm with his hesitant, but aggressive emotions, and just as the book emphasizes the character to be, Leo practically embodies Frank Wheeler all the way down to the facial twitch he gives whenever he and April are having one of their “moments.” In those moments, we hear Frank as sharply outspoken, and emotionally lit in his tone. But through his eyes, we can see the broken man he truly is on the inside. And even when he makes an unfortunate decision involving a beautiful secretary at his job, we still challenge ourselves with one dilemma; does he really love his wife and kids? And if so, how much?

Like her troubled husband, April is just as conflicted with her own emotions, and nobody other than Kate Winslet could've brought this character out any better. She's a more sweet and kind-hearted type of soul, even when she doesn't have to be, and aside from protecting her children, April never abandons her passion for stage acting; hopefully one day in Paris. And while she makes her own share of adulterated choices with a neighbor, we are still challenged by the same dilemma presented in her husband's case. Only for April, it's more heart-breaking as she covers all her internal agony with a smile... and not even her “devoted” husband can take the time to see what this beautiful angel is really hiding underneath.

If all of Sam Mendes' films were acted on stage in front of a crowded auditorium, he would still undoubtedly sell more tickets than he could count, and viewers would be just as mesmerized by the gifted performances that have blessed his work over the years. Even with that notion, Mendes still knows how to properly balance his budget in order to make his settings as real as the people in them, and the '50s backdrop that embraces "Revolutionary Road" just may be his best run on cinematography and costuming.

If nothing more, Justin Haythe is certain to bring home some gold for his near-perfect adaptation of Richard Yates' cult classic. I always believe in reading the books before you see the film, and in this case, I still can't decide which end of the spectrum delivered more power. But what I do know, whether it came more through novelty or film... a part of me has been left behind in both experiences; just as anyone else who has the honor of witnessing this film will be forever touched by its imminent perfection.

Touching documentary educates students on MD

BY CLAIRE DYKES
STAFF REPORTER

Darius Weems rolled out of Athens, Ga. for the first time in his fifteen years of life in the summer of 2005 with the help of his 11 best friends, a wheelchair and a video camera. Their goal: to make it to California and show Weems' wheelchair on MTV's show “Pimp My Ride.”

Both the senior and junior special education GCSU cohorts attended the showing of the “Darius Goes West” film along with Weems and his crew in Arts and Sciences auditorium Friday, Jan. 16.

Weems is afflicted with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a disease affecting one in 3,500 males. Duchenne muscular dystrophy is one of nine types of MD. The cause is an absence of dystrophin and is diagnosed in children between the ages of two and six who have problems walking, have weakening muscles and have enlarged calves. By the age of ten, Duchenne restricts its victims to a wheelchair.

Since the journey, “Darius Goes West,” has sold thousands of copies. The film is made up of clips from the road. The goal of the group this year is to sell one million DVDs. All of the proceeds go to benefit DMD research.

“We saw how much the film affected MD,” Weems said.

John Harmon, one of the members of Weem's team, was previously a part of GC-

SU's special education cohort and will be enrolled again in the fall of 2009. He took the past year off to travel with the Darius Goes West group.

“Seeing this group work so hard to raise money for this disease is really inspiring for all the special education cohort,” said Lauren Hyman, special education major. “It makes us feel like we can do have the same impact on the kids we're teaching in our placements and the kids we'll work with after we graduate.”

The film has won many awards including the Audience Choice Award in the Atlanta Film Festival, Best Documentary in the Oxford Film Festival and the Best Documentary in the Longbaugh Film Festival, along with more than ten others.

Weem's brother, Mario, died of DMD at 19. Both of the boys along with the 11 males in the film, attended Project REACH, a summer camp provided by Volunteer Services in Athens. Mario asked Logan to watch out for Darius, which lead to the group of 11 forming such a close bond.

DVDs are being distributed internationally to countries such as France, Greece, England, South Korea and Iran. Through these sales and other contributions, the group has raised two million dollars since the trip.

To help out with the Weem's efforts to make the world more aware of DMD, visit www.dariusgoeswest.com to buy memorabilia, to donate or to learn more.

Students shape up to Zumba

BY KATELYN HEBERT
STAFF REPORTER

Students at GCSU flock to the new aerobics class started a year ago at the Centennial Center.

Zumba, the fast paced, calorie-burning, aerobic dance class, makes exercising seem fun and exhilarating.

Invented by celebrity fitness trainer “Beto” Perez in the early 1990's, the workout is set to Latin music and other popular songs like Lady GaGa's Just Dance and Britney Spears' Womanizer. In 1999, Perez brought the Zumba craze to the US and the Zumba fitness program continued to spread. Today it is taught in about 40 countries worldwide.

Allison Everett, the GCSU aerobics coordinator, first saw Zumba two years ago at an aerobics workshop and decided that it was a must have on the aerobics schedule.

“Zumba is different from our other classes because there is choreography for every beat of the music, it is fun and has a lot of dance movements and has been very popular since we started it here,” Everett said.

Many students have New Years resolutions to get fit and aerobics classes like Zumba make that a lot more

fun. Freshman Meghan Heyburn went to her first Zumba class after New Years.

“I'm really excited about starting Zumba. Spring Break's coming up soon; all my friends love it, and I like dancing a lot so I think I'll enjoy it,” Heyburn said.

Zumba became popular very quickly with students at GCSU and not only has it been called fun, but it has also created a great workout. All the routines are created especially to incorporate a mixture of fast and slow rhythms, resistance training, and fat-burning exercises.

Senior nursing major, Meagan Bessette, has been attending aerobics classes and especially fell in love with Zumba.

“I'm getting married in May and Zumba is helping me keep in shape. It's just a really fun way to burn calories that's not so mundane,” Bessette said. “Each song the steps are different so it's never dull.”

Amber Bennett, a graduate school accounting major, is one of the certified Zumba instructors at GCSU.

“I've always done dance and fitness and when I found Zumba it seemed like the perfect blend of the two,” Bennett said.

As of 2008, there are over 20,000 registered Zumba instructors worldwide and the company has sold millions of the DVD sets. In 2003, Zumba signed a contract with Kellogg's and is now shown on many Special K cereal boxes around the world.

GCSU alumna Megan Young, got so hooked on Zumba that she too became an instructor and now teaches classes at the Centennial Center.

“Zumba is a really great way to involve your whole body and it's something you can do with a lot of people, and it's just a fun workout,” Young said.

The classes are held Tuesday and Thursday night at 6 pm and on Thursday morning at 9 am.

Caro Ashe, a junior nursing major, went every Tuesday and Thursday last semester.

“It's a really good stress reliever, it's a holistic exercise you can have fun with,” Ashe said. “Nothing matters when I'm out there, it's just fun.”

Zumba has swept the globe due to its upbeat music and steps, but its goal is to get people hooked, which gives them motivation to stick to the program.

“You don't even have to have dance experience to enjoy Zumba. The steps are easy basic steps. I encourage everyone just to try one class, anyone can do it,” Bennett said.

Students combine dance moves and aerobic exercise to stay in shape at Zumba classes.

KATELYN HEBERT / STAFF REPORTER



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24/7

Programs and Events



"What are we going to do tonight?" When you live in University Housing this question is multiple choice, not fill in the blank. Every day brings a new variety of entertaining events for you to choose from. Hall programs with your suite mates, concerts with friends from down the hall, intramural games, movie nights and more – it's all right outside your door.



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Bobcats continue to surprise, take nailbiter over Clayton

BY SAM HUNT
STAFF WRITER

The GCSU men's basketball team played a total of nine games between finals week last semester and the first home game of the spring semester on Monday, Jan. 19. The Bobcats earned seven victories and suffered two defeats in those games, putting them at 10-2 overall, 4-2 in the Peach Belt Conference.

At 8:00 pm on Martin Luther King Day, GCSU earned a hard-fought 68-67 win over the Clayton State Lakers at the Centennial Center.

The Bobcats came out strong against CSU and held a solid lead in the opening minutes, but the Lakers then stepped up their game and caught back up with GCSU toward the half.

Junior guard Jake Rios made all six field goals, including both of the three-point field goals that he took, giving him a shooting average of 100% during the first half and putting 12 points on the board for the Bobcats.

"My team did a great job of getting me the ball in order to convert scoring op-

portunities. Even though we missed a lot of shots, the team is being very unselfish and is coming together," Rios said.

Junior guard Graham Martin was 4-of-6 on field goals, including 2-of-3 three-point shots. Senior guard Shaun Keaton was 2-of-4 on field goals, 1-of-3 on three-point field goals, and made all three of his free throws. Freshman Ryan Aquino and Sophomore Josh Hurst both made 2 field goals. The Georgia College Bobcats lead at the end of the first half 36-34. GCSU's shooting average stood at 45.2% for field goals, 31.3% for 3 point field goals, and 100% for free throws.

The Bobcats returned in the second period to play an incredibly close and suspenseful game. Near the end of the game when the score was 68-66 in favor of the Bobcats, Trey Gross of CSU was fouled on a layup attempt. He made the first free throw, making the score 68-67, but then missed the second free throw. Roland and Clayton were both able to make two huge defensive plays to prevent the Lakers to score any more goals.

Georgia College held on to preserve a 68-67 win. Rios finished the game with 14 points on 8-of-10 from the floor, including 3-of-4 threes. Martin also finished with 14 points on 4-of-8 on field goals, including 3-of-5 on threes and 3-of-4 free throws.

"Coming out with a victory is the bottom line. Offense is our biggest weakness. And because we have a smaller lineup we need to take advantage of speed and spreading the floor," Martin said.

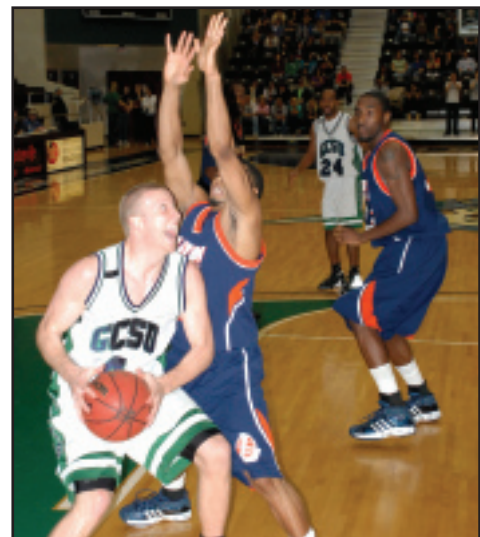
The next home game for GCSU is Saturday, Jan. 24 at 4 p.m. at Centennial Center against the University of South Carolina at Aiken.

"We will work hard every day and practice constantly to in order to execute the fundamentals and help each other out," Head Coach Terry Sellers said. "There is a lot of room for improvement and there is still a lot of basketball to be played."



TENNYNSON MOSHER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore forward Josh Hurst shows his range on a long jumper. With a speedy, guard-based strategy for the Bobcats this season, Hurst's quickness has been a valuable asset this season.



TENNYNSON MOSHER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior point guard Ty Rowland looks to score inside against a Clayton State defender. Rowland has become a steady floor general for the Bobcats.

Lady 'Cats win seven of nine, end drought against Lady Lakers in convincing fashion

BY PRESTON SELLERS
SENIOR REPORTER

After some rough luck in their 3-3 start to the season, including two 2-point losses, the Lady Bobcats basketball team found its stride over the holiday break, having won seven of their last nine.

On Monday, Jan. 19, the team played its first home game of the spring semester, and put on a show for the fans in the Centennial Center. The opponent was the Clayton State University Lady Lakers, who have historically owned the Lady Bobcats. CSU had won seven in a row against GCSU, and 11 of the last 12. Clayton's No. 17 ranking suggested that this game would not be the opportunity to end that streak, but the Lady Bobcats had other ideas.

In the first half, the Lady Bobcats went up early and held the Lady Lakers at arm's length for the remainder of the period, and headed to the locker room up by eight.

GCSU left Clayton no chance in the second half, running away from the Lady Lakers to win by 25. The Lady Bobcat defense held CSU to 27 percent shooting for the game, including just 11 percent from three-point range. Combined with this defensive effort was 50 percent second-half shooting by the Lady Bobcat offense, a recipe for a blowout in any game.

Senior guard Emily Bixler came off the bench with senior starting forward Tiauna Brantley in foul trouble, and put in 16 points on 5-of-10 shooting, including 5-of-6 from the line, and missed a double-double by just one rebound.

"I've been waiting four years for this win,"

Bixler said.

Head Coach John Carrick reflected on the win over a ranked opponent.

"This gives us confidence. Confidence is fragile, and right now we got it. It's my job to keep it," Carrick said. "This team is good. We can win this whole thing."

Sophomore guard Dominique Huffin also had 16 points to tie for the team lead. She explained the Lady Bobcats' preparation for the CSU game.

"We did a lot of shooting, and worked on breaking the press," Huffin said. "We also worked on teamwork and playing as one."

Sophomore sharpshooting guard Mandi Dudish attempted seven shots, all from behind the arc, hitting three, and finished with 13 points and five rebounds.

Carrick saw a different Lady Bobcat team than he watched in the last matchup with the Lady Lakers.

"We didn't have that confidence I mentioned," Carrick said. "We were hesitant before, and we weren't tonight. We shot 50 percent in the second half. That's incredible."

The Lady Bobcats' next home game will be Saturday, Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. against another ranked opponent, the No. 19 University of South Carolina at Aiken Lady Pacers. GCSU has shown that they have the talent and ability to play with the best teams in the conference, but they have not had the consistency of a championship-caliber squad.

"Time to go back to work," Bixler said. "Enjoy the win, tomorrow's a new day."



TENNYNSON MOSHER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior forward Antoinette Reames go up for two against Clayton State on Monday night.

THE SIDE LINE



BY PRESTON SELLERS
SPORTS EDITOR

The BCS is B.S. Everyone knows it, and something has to change. How can there be no less than four teams every season claiming their right to play for the title?

This season, I will agree that the best team won the championship, because Florida seemed unbeatable in the final month of the season, but how can an undefeated Utah team who took Alabama apart in the Sugar Bowl not get at least a chance to prove themselves?

Two other teams who finished with one loss, Texas and USC, also played like the best teams in the country down the stretch. In fact, Texas was Oklahoma's only loss, and the Longhorns only defeat came on a ridiculous touchdown by the best receiver in the country. I maintain that Texas deserved a shot at Florida more than Oklahoma did.

The only thing that makes sense is to set up some sort of playoff, no matter the format, so that the eventual national champion has to prove itself in a series of games, not just one matchup decided by voters and computers to be the "best".

Here are my issues with just putting two teams on a field and claiming the winner to be the champion:

1. It gives smaller conference schools no chance, because an SEC or Big 12 school will always get the benefit of the doubt based on reputation. There is no room for crazy upsets, such as in the March Madness tournament.

2. In a one-game situation, teams have a month or so to prepare for their opponents, and are away from the field for too long. This often means sloppy games with uncharacteristic play from both teams.

3. The winner of this title game often appears unimpressive, as compared to another bowl winner (see Florida vs. Utah this season). How can we know unless the champion at least plays a few of the other top teams in a row?

So here is my proposal, as far as I've gotten with it. Take the top eight teams in the country, based on the current computer-based system, and bracket them the traditional way: 1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, etc. This would change the debate from who's #2 to who's #8 and would thus be less pressure on that deci-

Side Line Page 14

THE SHORT STOP



Upcoming Sports

Basketball (M):

Jan. 24 4 p.m. USC-Aiken

Basketball (W):

Jan. 24 2 p.m. USC-Aiken

Quote of the Week

"Tebow, just call him Superman."
-Florida wide receiver Percy Harvin after the Gators' second national championship in three seasons, this time 24-14 over the Oklahoma Sooners. (Tim) Tebow, the Gators' quarterback, had a subpar game statistically, but carried the team to victory with sheer determination. (AP)

Stat of the Week

6

Games decided by 10 points or less for the Bobcat men's basketball team this season. GCSU is 5-1 in these games.

Sassy Cats go 'gangsta', earn national ranking

BY CHELSEA THOMAS
SENIOR REPORTER

Bringing their hip-hop moves to the floor at the UCA/UDA College Cheerleading and Dance Team Nationals Competition, the GCSU Sassy Cats became the first dance team in GCSU's history to place in the finals for a national competition.

Senior Ashley Cerame, the Sassy Cats' team captain, has been part of the team for three years. Cerame was excited for the competition and the challenge it brought to the team.

"We competed in the UDA Open Hip Hop Division with 24 other dance teams from around the country," Cerame said. "On Saturday, January 17 we danced in the semi-final round and found out we made it into the top 16 teams to make it to finals."

Based in Orlando, Fla. at Hollywood Studios, this was the Sassy Cats' second time participating at this competition in the past three years. Dancing on the Indiana Jones Stage, they brought their unique flavor to the competition.

"Our theme for nationals this year was 'Geeks to Gangstas'," co-captain Charlotte Ballard said. "The dance gave us room to play up our characters, show high energy levels, and have fun with each other."

After competing at the NDA Collegiate Nationals in Daytona, Fla. in 2008, the Sassy Cats were hoping to find a competition that would better fit their style. According to Cerame, the UDA Dance Team Nationals were perfectly in sync to their dance categorization, which led to the team's success.

The Sassy Cats earned the final place of 14 among the 24 dance teams. Their national ranking was a long-awaited victory. The team endured three practices every week last se-

mester to learn two game dances and their nationals routine from choreographer CiCi Kelley, who has been featured on MTV's MADE. The team came back a week early from holiday break to prepare for nationals.

"With all of our hard work, dedication and long hours, we were very proud of all we had accomplished," Cerame said.

An additional responsibility of the team is raising all their funds themselves. Whereas coaches and the athletic departments manage the majority of the other teams competing in the Sassy Cats division, GCSU's team is student ran. Organized fundraisers, sponsors, and events cover their expenses. All the team's fundraising aided in bringing forth their new trophy.

"With this win, our confidence has definitely increased," co-captain Beth Marxsen said. "Being ranked nationally has affected all of the girls positively. All of their hard work and dedication has paid off."

Looking to the near future, the Sassy Cats will continue to bring spirit to the men's home basketball games this semester. The Peach Belt Competition will be held on March 7, allowing them to compete against other dance teams in GCSU's conference. They have the hopes of regaining their title as Peach Belt Champions, which they last won in 2007. Footage of the UCA/UDA College Cheerleading and Dance Team Nationals Competition will be aired on ESPN as well.

"I am excited to be on such a hard-working team," sophomore Emily Hensley said. "I hope the school comes out to see our dedicated and talented members at the basketball games."



SPECIAL TO THE COLONNADE

The Sassy Cats' captains pose with their trophy after a successful performance at the UDA championships at Hollywood Studios in Orlando, Fla.

Athlete of the week: Graham Martin

BY PRESTON SELLERS
SENIOR REPORTER

The GCSU Athletic Department has named Graham Martin, junior guard for the Bobcats basketball team, its athlete of the week for the week ending Jan. 20.

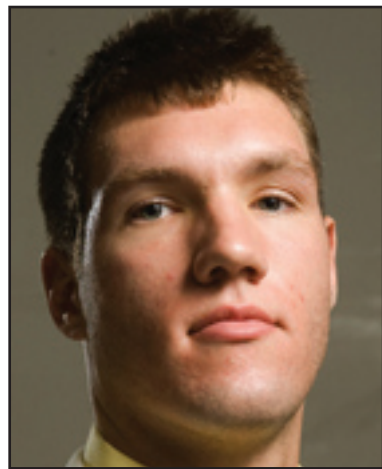
Martin had 17 points in just 25 minutes to lead the Bobcats in a close loss to Armstrong Atlantic State University on Jan. 14.

He followed this performance with a ten-point,

seven-rebound effort in a 57-51 Bobcat victory over Francis Marion University on Jan. 17.

He closed the week on Monday by again pacing the Bobcat lineup in points with 14 in the one-point win over Clayton State University.

Martin is second on the team in scoring at 11.9 points per game, and third in steals with 15 on the season.



Martin

Side Line

Continued from Page 12...

and would always include each major conference champion, a key component of my proposal.

With 68 teams currently playing in bowls, this would leave 60 teams and 30 "regular" bowls. Play these as normal. Schedule the first round of playoffs around the second week of bowls, so the teams are back on the field relatively quickly after conference games. Follow me so far? Good.

Here's where it gets fun: the "Big Four" bowls (Fiesta, Sugar, Orange, and Rose). I simply cannot figure out how to distribute these four games between seven playoff games. The best way I can think of:

Have the games serve as the first

round matchups, similar to the current system. This makes a lot of sense, but the bowl sponsors would prefer that their games be the final game for the teams playing, not a first-round playoff game. Get the Big Four to buy in, and we have a great system for deciding a national champion.

Additional stipulations include adding conference championship games to each major conference that does not currently have one, and removing one of those garbage games from the schedules. This puts a full season at 11 regular season games, 12 after conference championships, and 15 after a national title game.

This could work, people. I hope the NCAA moves toward something along these lines in the next couple of years, but I may be hoping for a while.

GREEN DAY

BASKETBALL GAME INDOOR TAILGATE

Saturday, Jan. 24

Tailgate: Centennial, 12:30 p.m.

Game: 2 p.m.

Bring yor own food or buy
hot dogs at the tailgate.

Free popcorn!

ONE TEAM
ONE SPIRIT

BREAKFAST TIME

Wake up a lil' early for our Breakfast blow-out! Tuesday, Jan. 27 in MSU Dining Hall



Thursday, Jan. 29 in MSU Dining Hall at Lunch,

MEXICAN FIESTA - the music and soul of Mexico.

Come in to try our authentic food, enjoy the Mariachi band and have a good time to the rythm of the maracas.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Friday, January 23 -
Thursday, January 29**

Friday, January 23

10:00 am- 4:00 pm Art Exhibit
Everyday Mythologies by Dana Thacker
GCSU Museum - Focus Gallery

8:00 pm The Lover (Senior Capstones), Max Noah Hall

Deadline to Apply for Graduation for Students Completing Requirements
Summer and Fall Semester 2009

Saturday, January 24

8:00 am- 5:00 pm Peacock's Feet Submission Deadline,
3-29 Arts & Sciences

2:00 pm Basketball doubleheader v. USC Aiken
Centennial Center

8:00 pm "HELP!" Theater Production, Russle Auditorium

Sunday, January 25

Monday, January 26

7:30 pm Jessica Dennison, Vocals, and Marcelina Turcanu,
Piano, Max Noah Hall

Tuesday, January 27

7:30 pm ZZ Packer, Arts & Sciences Auditorium
7:30 pm Peter Jankovic, Guitar, Max Noah Hall

Wednesday, January 28

12:30 pm Times Talk, Beeson Hall, Lower Level
2:00 pm Deter, Detect, Defend: Fighting ID Theft
Arts & Sciences Auditorium

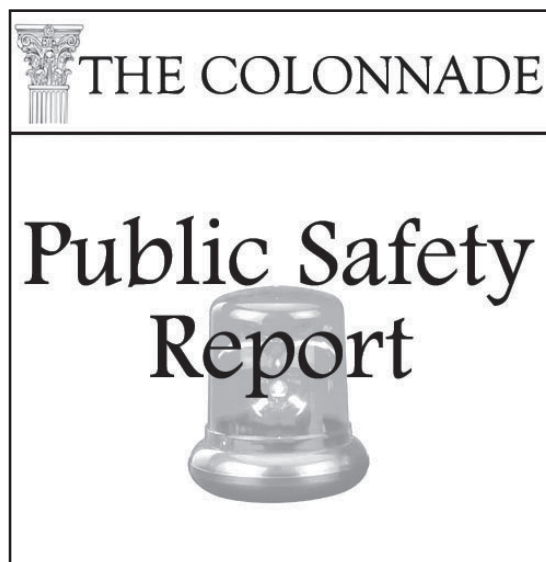
4:00 pm The Road to the Office Series, 208 Atkinson Hall
5:30 pm Basketball doubleheader v. Columbus State
Cenntennial Center

Thursday, January 29

10:00 am- 2:00 pm Mt. Bethel UMC Camp Ministries Information
Table, Library Atrium

10:00 am- 4:00 pm Andalusia: Photographs of Flannery O'Connor's
Farm by Nancy Marshall
GCSU Museum

Please send calendar submissions to colonnadenews@gcsu.edu



Armed Robbery

On January 13, 2009 at approximately 0919 hours Sgt. English and Officer Smith responded to a call for assistance to set up a perimeter in the 800 block of South Elbert Street in reference to an armed robbery.

A Helping Hand

On Jan. 16, at approximately 0758 hours Sgt. English was dispatched to Adams Hall in reference to an elderly male sitting in the lobby. Contact was made with the elderly man, who advised he was from Eatonton and homeless and had been sitting in the lobby waiting for someone to come in so he could use the phone. The man needed to get to the Veterans Hospital to seek shelter. Sgt. English was able to get him a ride to the Salvation Army Headquarters in Macon, Georgia.

Locked Out

On Jan. 16 at approximately 1803 hours, Officer N. Miller attempted to unlock a vehicle owned by a GCSU student. The tool used to unlock the vehicle became stuck in the drivers' side door. Old Capitol was called to unlock the vehicle, but was unable to remove the tool. Sgt. English removed the inside door panel and was able to remove the tool.

A Bad Night

On Jan. 16 at approximately 0210 hours, Officer Williams observed a male and female walking in the middle of that street at Hancock and Wilkinson Streets. A vehicle approached the intersection and blew the horn because the

subjects were blocking the intersection. The female then flipped the driver "a bird". Contact was made with Gerber French, who admitted to flipping "a bird" and a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage could be detected coming from her person. French was placed under arrest and she refused to comply with Officer Williams' verbal commands. At first she would not put her hands behind her back, then she would put one arm back and refuse to put the other one back and she continuously tried to pull away. Officer Williams was finally able to get French Handcuffed and she repeatedly asked why she had been stopped. French was transported to Milledgeville Police Department and charged with Public drunkenness. The male was released from the scene.

Attempted Identity Theft

On Jan. 20 at approximately 1620 hours, a student reported to GCSU Police that a blocked number called his cell phone 2 different times. The first time they called, they stated that they were from T Mobile and needed his credit card number, to which he stated he used AT&T. The second time they called, they stated they were from AT&T and needed his credit card number, for which he refused.

Fainting

On Jan. 20 at approximately 1814 hours Officer Hicks was dispatched to Centennial Center in reference to an unresponsive female. Contact was made with the student, who did not want to go to the hospital once EMS arrived on scene.

Window Sketch

On Jan. 20 at approximately 1254 hours, a student reported that he had parked his vehicle in the Tattnall Street lot on 1/13/2009. When he returned to his vehicle on 1/19/2009, he found that unknown person(s) had sketched 2 images on the drivers side windshield of the vehicle. The case has been turned over to Detective Butler.

Information compiled
by Alana Llewellyn

Please go online to
gcsunade.com to download the
extended Public Safety Report podcast.

FROM SGA

TODAY

Lynne Ruffus

BOBCAT IN THE FLESH

SGA MID-YEAR UPDATE 2009

On Wednesday, January, 21st. The members of SGA convened for the first senate session of the year. This session differed from most as instead of being held in the Student Center at Magnolia Ballroom it was instead held at Milledgeville city hall. In this session, the members of SGA recalled the accomplishments of the previous semester and laid out their goals for the months to come.

Examples of the Senate's accomplishments last year include, but are certainly not limited to, drafting several major resolutions on issues ranging from smoking to testing, allocating funds to many successful events and organizations, working on regulating student fees, a massive text book requisition campaign, which saved students a substantial amount of money, working with the city on the housing

ordinance and the special use permit, an open forum with President Leland, as well as many other events, actions, and legislations.

Several of last semesters largest projects remain in progress. SGA's "Study Week" resolution, which calls for no tests to be due or scheduled during the week before finals, was brought before the University Senate's Academic Policy committee. There it was met with some opposition and has been sent back to SGA for more research and revision.

Beyond the continuing work on this resolution and a few other projects, SGA's various committees have come up with several plans and ideas to help the student body. A newly formed Ad-hoc committee has been formed that will concentrate on working to have University Housing and the

book store to open sooner before classes start after a long break. Also, the Student Services committee is attempting to get Brooks and Brew in the library to stay open longer during finals week. This committee is also working on getting more businesses downtown to accept Cast Cash, and Pig and the Pit may soon do so. The Public Relations committee is looking into having live music on front campus and renting mock "Sumo Suits". On the less glamorous side, SGA is attempting to work with Plant Operations to obtain higher quality toilet paper on campus.

The Student Government of GCSU is highly optimistic about this upcoming year and will continue to do all in its power to serve the interests of the student body.

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